

**Introduced by Senators DeSaulnier and Cedillo**

March 23, 2010

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to Summer Learning and Wellness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 93, as introduced, DeSaulnier. Summer Learning and Wellness Month.

This measure would designate July 2010 as “Summer Learning and Wellness Month.”

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, A child’s need for meaningful learning and  
2 enrichment experiences does not end in June when the school doors  
3 close for summer vacation, these needs continue into and through  
4 the summer months. Whether or not these needs are being met  
5 may boil down to a child’s neighborhood or family income level;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, All children need summer learning opportunities  
8 in order to stay on course academically. Without ongoing summer  
9 opportunities to reinforce and learn skills, children, especially  
10 children in low-income communities, may fall behind dramatically  
11 in many areas of academic achievement; and

12 WHEREAS, The debilitating effect of an absence of summer  
13 learning and enrichment is often referred to as “the summer slide.”  
14 The summer slide is characterized by measurable learning loss  
15 that includes reading loss and significant achievement gaps between  
16 children with lower and higher income parents; and

1 WHEREAS, The summer slide affects children from low-income  
2 families disproportionately. Unequal summer learning opportunities  
3 during elementary school years are responsible for about two-thirds  
4 of the ninth-grade achievement gap between youths with lower  
5 and higher income parents. As a result, youths with low-income  
6 parents are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, While parents in California consistently cite  
9 summer as the most difficult time to ensure that their children have  
10 productive things to do, the supply of low-cost summer programs  
11 in California is extremely limited relative to the number of children  
12 with low-income parents. A 2008 study of five California cities  
13 revealed that nearly 75 percent of children and youth are not served  
14 by the most common providers of summer programming; and

15 WHEREAS, Summer school is currently the largest provider  
16 of summer programming in California, but budget cuts have had  
17 a devastating effect on program availability; and

18 WHEREAS, The health of many children with low-income  
19 parents is put at risk during the summer because they lose access  
20 to healthy school meals and organized physical activity; and

21 WHEREAS, Most children gain weight more rapidly when they  
22 are out of school for summer. Summer weight gains are especially  
23 large for African American and Hispanic children. In California,  
24 nearly one-third (32 percent) of 5th graders are overweight or  
25 obese; and

26 WHEREAS, The national Summer Learning Day on June 21  
27 celebrates how summer programs send young people back to school  
28 ready to learn, support working families, and help keep children  
29 safe and healthy; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates July 2010 as  
32 Summer Learning and Wellness Month; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature recognizes that all  
34 children need fun, safe, and educational opportunities in the  
35 summertime that prevent summer learning loss and summer weight  
36 gain; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
38 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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